

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 remain pending in the present application. The objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully traversed below.

**The Title**

The Office Action requested a new title. A new title was provided above.

**The Specification**

The Office Action identified some typographical errors in the Specification on pages 7 and 9 regarding the device control *filter* 8. The specification was corrected above.

**Claim Objections**

Claim 6 was objected to for a minor informality. Independent claim 4, as amended, recites "a device control filter." The claims were also amended above to clarify the invention, as well as to improve their format.

**Rejections under 35 USC § 103**

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 over **Suzuki et al.** (USP 6,213,652) in view of **Schoenzeit et al.** (USP 5,619,624). However, it is submitted that nothing in the cited prior art teaches or suggests all the features recited in the present claimed invention.

For instance, in the processor of the present invention described in amended claim 1, the print data storing unit is provided in the processor in the addition to the spool file. Therefore, the processing unit is able to start storing the print file of the print job in the print data storing unit and to supply the print data to the device control filter. Thereby, a time from the receipt of the print job to the start of the requested printing can be reduced, and a recovering process for reprinting can be performed at a high speed without providing another memory for storing the print file, even when trouble occurs on the printer side.

On the other hand, the devices described in **Suzuki** and **Schoenzeit**, store all the print data of the accepted print job in a spool file, and therefore they do not have a storing unit corresponding to the print data storing unit of the present invention. Therefore, the devices described in **Suzuki** and **Schoenzeit** do not have the advantageous effect of the present invention.

According to the present claimed invention of amended claim 4, the print data storing unit is provided in the processor in addition to the spool file. When the device control filter is not analyzing and processing print data, the processing unit reads out the print data of the print job in accordance with a specific condition which determines an output sequence of the registered print jobs stored in the print data storing unit, and writes the read out print data to the spool file. Therefore, the processing unit in the present invention selects a most suitable printing job from the accepted print jobs in accordance with the specific condition, and prints the print data of the selected print job.

However, in the devices of **Suzuki**, all the print data of the accepted print jobs are stored in a spool file at a given sequence. Therefore, the device of **Suzuki** simply checks a plurality of registered print jobs at the given sequence, and prints the print data of the print job if it is possible to print them. Thus, in the device of **Suzuki**, a most suitable print job in accordance with the specific condition for determining the output order cannot be selected from the accepted print jobs.

It should also be noted that the device of **Suzuki** is similar to the related art referred to in parts of the present specification, such as in the Background of the Invention section. Therefore, in the device of **Suzuki**, it is necessary to re-arrange the output order of the print jobs which have been accepted so far in accordance with the specific condition at each time when the print jobs are newly accepted, in order to select the print jobs which are most suitable to the specific condition. Therefore, the invention described in **Suzuki** cannot solve the problem that the print files are printed out in erroneous output order.

For at least these reasons, the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art. If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



John P. Kong  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 40,054

JPK/jli

1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 700  
Washington, D. C. 20036  
202-822-1100 (t)  
202-822-1111 (f)